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The New CIA Chief

Adm. William F. Raborn, who has been designated by President Johnson to be the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is a firstclass officer and citizen. He earned special credit for the way in which he managed the coordination and development of the great Polaris missile system, and he also is favorably known for his professional competence, his sense of drive, his ability as a tough administrator and his capacity to combine his own knowledge with a respect for other men's knowledge. He will need these qualities in his new post, and those who know him have no doubt that he will make good use of them.

Admiral Raborn, a retired naval officer, will succeed John A. McCone, a civilian, at the CIA. Outsiders have no way of judging the work of a CIA chief so long as he keeps out of the headlines. It thus may be a tribute to Mr. McCone that he has kept himself and the agency in the obscurity to which its duties consign it. In line with regular policy, which takes note of the agency's blend of military and civilian responsibilities, Richard M. Helms, a civilian, will become deputy director when Admiral Raborn becomes the director.